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FROM

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LETTERS  
OF  
NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON

TO HIS CLASSMATE, ELIPHALET PEARSON

1773-1784

EDITED BY  
WILLIAM COOLIDGE LANE

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OF  
NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON

TO HIS CLASSMATE, ELIPHALET PEARSON

1773-1784

EDITED BY  
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LETTERS  
OF  
NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON  
1773-1784

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THE following letters from Nathaniel Walker Appleton to Eliphalet Pearson were found among other papers of Dr. Pearson lately received from his descendants by the Trustees of Phillips Academy, Andover, of which school Dr. Pearson was the first preceptor. Such of the papers as related to Harvard College, with the government of which Dr. Pearson had been closely connected as Professor and Fellow of the Corporation, the Trustees generously transferred to the Library of Harvard College. Among them were included this brief series of letters written by one classmate to another in the years immediately succeeding their graduation, while one was preparing for the practice of medicine, the other for the ministry. They contain many interesting references to College affairs, and they also reflect the stirring events and political passions of the time (1773-1778).

Nathaniel Walker Appleton, the writer of the letters, born in Boston, 14 June, 1755, was the son of Nathaniel Appleton of the Class of 1749, a merchant of Boston, a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and a Commissioner of Loans. His grandfather was the well-known Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Appleton of the Class of 1712, minister of the Church in Cambridge from 1717 till his death in 1784. An uncle John Appleton (born 1739, died 1817) lived in Salem, where Nathaniel W. Appleton studied medicine under the direction of his father's cousin, Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke, a son of President Edward Holyoke. After remaining three years in Salem with Dr. Holyoke, he moved to Boston, where he died 15 April, 1795. A funeral "Discourse, Delivered at the First Church in Boston, 19th April, A. D.

1795, the Lord's-Day after the Interment of Nathaniel W. Appleton, M.D.," was published in 1796 by the Rev. John Clarke, who is mentioned several times in the letters which follow.<sup>1</sup>

Eliphalet Pearson, Appleton's correspondent and College friend, was born in Byfield 11 June, 1752, and was educated at Dummer Academy. He entered Harvard College in 1769 and graduated in 1773. In 1773-1774 he was Master of the Grammar School in Andover and was living in the family of his friend Samuel Phillips (later known as Judge Phillips) in Andover. He returned to Cambridge to study for the ministry, but during the College's exile from Cambridge, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he was again in Andover with his friends. He became the first preceptor of Phillips Academy, which was opened in April, 1778. After eight years of service, in 1786 he was called to Cambridge as Professor of Hebrew in the College. In 1800 he became a member of the Corporation of Harvard College, and was Acting-President during the interval between the death of President Joseph Willard in 1804 and the election of Samuel Webber in 1806. (Becoming more and more dissatisfied with the liberal tendencies of the College, he resigned his professorship and his membership in the Corporation in 1806 and withdrew to Andover.)<sup>2</sup> On the establishment of the Theological Seminary in Andover, he was made Professor of Sacred Literature in 1808.

His first wife was Priscilla, a daughter of President Holyoke, born in 1739 and accordingly his senior by thirteen years. She died in Andover, 29 March, 1782, soon after the birth of her daughter, Mary.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Pearson died 12 September, 1826.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Appleton married Sarah Greenleaf 24 May, 1780, and had seven children. After his death, his widow married Joseph Haven of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and died 2 January, 1838. See W. S. Appleton, *Genealogy of the Appleton Family* (1874), p. 22; *Boston Record Commissioners' Reports*, xxiv. 235, xxx. 446.

<sup>2</sup> For a letter written 19 March, 1806, by Samuel Cary, relating to Dr. Pearson's resignation, see the *Publications of this Society*, iii. 177-179.

<sup>3</sup> The daughter married the Rev. Ephraim Abbot of Greenland, New Hampshire (Sarah L. Bailey, *Historical Sketches of Andover*, p. 537). Dr. Pearson married for his second wife, in 1785, Sarah Bromfield, daughter of Edward Bromfield.

<sup>4</sup> For a notice of, and allusions to, the Rev. Dr. Pearson, see the *Publications of this Society*, v. 205-214 and *notes*, vi. 221.

## I

CAMBRIDGE Decr. 14<sup>th</sup> 1773.

DEAR FRIEND

As I had wrote you three or four Letters and received no Answer, I was at a Loss to know what to impute to, but understanding by Mr. Farrington<sup>1</sup> that you had wrote I concluded it had miscarried so thought proper to inform you of it, shall expect immediately a Long Letter from you in Answer to All those I have wrote. Herewith goes your News Paper<sup>2</sup> which I endeavour to send as soon as possible. The unhappy affair concerning the late Pr-s-d-nt remains as yet something in the dark, perhaps Time may discover it.<sup>3</sup> He resigned on 6<sup>th</sup> Inst & went off to Sherburne the next Day. WE HOPE that the Corporation will make Choice of a Person to fill the vacant Chair who by his exemplary VIRTUE will remove the Blemish which now lays upon the College. There have been some Commotions in the S— C— which are yet not entirely settled.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Gannet is much approved of as Tutor.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A classmate, Thomas Farrington, of Amesbury.

<sup>2</sup> The Boston Gazette, as is evident from a later reference to the publishers, Edes and Gill, p. 307, below.

<sup>3</sup> All the College records preserve a discreet silence in regard to the reasons for President Samuel Locke's resignation. At the meeting of the Corporation on 7 December, 1773:

Dr. Appleton communicated a Letter from President Locke dated Decr. 1<sup>st</sup> 1773, signifying his resignation of the Office of President of this College. Voted, that the Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Appleton, Professor Winthrop and Mr. Eliot be a Committee to receive and take into their Care the Books Papers and other Things in the President's house, that belong to the College and to receive the Keys as soon as the late President has removed his Family & Effects.

The cause of President Locke's resignation and of the considerate silence generally observed in regard to it, is disclosed in President Stiles's Literary Diary, i. 426.

<sup>4</sup> I am indebted to Mr. Albert Matthews and to the Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale for the suggestion that the letters "S. C." stand for the Speaking Club of Harvard College, the predecessor of the Institute of 1770. The records of the Speaking Club, comprising Journal, Laws and Orders, signatures of members, and accounts, are still preserved, almost intact, in the College Library. The

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<sup>5</sup> Caleb Gannett, of the Class of 1768, was Tutor from 1778 to 1780, Fellow from 1778 to 1780, and Steward from 1779 to 1818. He lived in the house afterwards known as the Holmes House. A water-color view of the College made about 1805, now in the College Library, was taken "from the Seat of Caleb Gannett Esq." Cf. Publications of this Society, vii. 202.

I Understand you have some thoughts of going to Portsmouth, should be glad to know as to that. Received a Letter ab<sup>t</sup> 10 Days ago from your Chum Cutler<sup>1</sup> & also one from our Friend Crosby<sup>2</sup> both well and in

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Club was founded in 1770, with Samuel Phillips, President; Joseph Pearse Palmer, Vice-President; and Israel Keith, Secretary — all of the Class of 1771.

Pearson and Appleton were received as members 18 June, 1771, at the close of their Sophomore year. Appleton was elected Secretary in June, 1772, and seems to have so remained while in College. As a resident graduate, he evidently continued to take a lively interest in the Society. The object of the Society was to provide an opportunity for practice in public speaking and declamation. Despite the secrecy which attended the Society at the time, and which would have concealed its very existence, it may be permissible at this late day to quote three orders which were adopted 16 November, 1773, in order to show the serious way in which the work of the Society was taken.

15<sup>th</sup>. That a Committee consisting of 5 be chosen for the purpose of remarking upon the exhibitions in the Club; and that this Committee shall be chosen 3 Months at least before they begin to act in the Club; and, in order, to qualify themselves for their office, shall study the best treatises upon Elocution; and continue to execute their office 6 Months, unless the Club think fit to remove them for misbehaviour or insufficiency.

16<sup>th</sup>. That some of the best treatises shall be bought at the expence of the Club, and read thro' in course in the Club by the Members each in his turn (a suitable part being read at each meeting) and that these books be left with the Com<sup>tee</sup> to be lent to the Members of the Club, as the Committee think proper.

17<sup>th</sup>. That the Committee be authorised to direct any Member of the Club to read the piece he has just spoke, or any other piece they think proper, that they may have an opportunity of pointing out his faults more particularly, and he of correcting them by repeated trials.

On 28 December, 1801, the name of the Society was changed to "Patriotic Association," in order that the object of the Society's endeavors, which apparently was its sole secret, might not be betrayed by a casual mention of its name. The entry in its record on this occasion is as follows:

Preamble of the revising Committee, recommending an alteration of the name of this Society.

As this Society has become venerable for its antiquity, and respectable for the virtue, merit, and dignity, of its members, from its first institution, it is with the greatest caution and diffidence that we propose any alteration, affecting its consti[tu]tion. But, duly considering the wise design and prudent measures of our predecessors, to preserve the object of this Society an inviolable secret, and being actuated

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<sup>1</sup> Nahum Cutler, the first member of the class to die. His name is starred in the Triennial Catalogue of 1776, but the date of his death is unknown. He is frequently referred to in the following letters. See, in particular, the mention of his death on p. 316, below.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Stephen Crosby of Cambridge, a classmate. He was born 8 August, 1752, according to the Records of the College Faculty, iii. 168.

good Spirits, hope this will find you so. You have doubtless seen the Proceedings of the PEOPLE.<sup>1</sup> We wait the Event with Patience, trust-

1. almost from  
people  
2. Harvard n  
primary

by the same benevolent motives, to transmit it unimpaired, as a blessing to posterity, and perceiving the danger, which now threatens it from those who use every possible exertion to make it known, and that its present name, if inadvertently uttered, must betray its most important secret, a secret which deeply [affects] the interest of this Society, and the peace and happiness of its members, we propose, and recommend, that this Society hence forth be denominated the "Patriotic Association."

For additional facts in regard to the history of the Speaking Club, and the other societies afterward incorporated with it, see the account of the Institute of 1770, by Francis Greenwood Peabody, in *The Harvard Book* (1875), ii. 341, 342, and an earlier brief account in the *Harvard Magazine* (1864), x. 236-239.

<sup>1</sup> After months of heated discussion and protest stirred up by the duty laid upon tea, the Dartmouth, bringing the first cargo of the "detested plant," had arrived in Boston Harbor on 28 November, 1773. On the following day a public meeting was called in Faneuil Hall which later adjourned to the Old South Church. Votes were passed declaring that the tea must be returned in the same bottoms in which it came, and that no duty shall be paid thereon. Adjourned meetings on the afternoon of the same day and on the next day (30 November), held for the purpose of hearing what propositions the consignees had to make, exacted promises from the owner and master of the Dartmouth and from the owners of the other vessels expected that they would comply with the requirements of the people. A letter from the consignees, and in the afternoon a message from them brought by John Singleton Copley the artist, stated that it was out of their power to reship the teas, but that they were ready to store the teas under inspection until they were able to hear further from their constituents. This offer was voted to be not "in the least degree satisfactory to this body," and the watch which had been appointed the previous day "for the security of Capt. Hall's ship and cargo" was continued and instructed to take charge of other ships which might arrive later. Resolutions were passed denouncing as enemies to their country any persons who should import tea from Great Britain, and declaring that they would prevent its landing and sale and the payment of any duty thereon, and it was voted "That it is the determination of this body to carry their votes and resolutions into execution at the risque of their lives and property." ("Proceedings of the town of Boston on the 20th and 30th Novemb<sup>r</sup> 1773," as printed in the *Boston Gazette* of 6 December, 1773, and in F. S. Drake's *Tea Leaves*, 1884, pp. 320-331.) The guard appointed at this meeting was continued until December sixteenth, the day of the "tea-party."

As the time passed, and the twenty days were nearly expired at the conclusion of which the vessel was liable to seizure for non-payment of duties, the Committee of Safety began to put pressure again upon Mr. Rotch, the owner of the vessel, to fulfil his promise to send her back, yet she could not be legally cleared until her whole cargo had been discharged. At first he refused, but on



ing that all will work for the best good of this much injured People.  
Thus much for Politics—the Paper will not allow Me to enlarge—so  
conclude with subscribing myself

Your sincere Friend & Class-Mate

NATH<sup>L</sup>. WALKER APPLETON.

P.S. Pray write me soon.

[Addressed]

To

Mr Eliphalet Pearson

School-Master

in

Andover

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December fourteenth (the date of Appleton's letter) a public meeting was again held called by handbills as follows :

Friends! Brethren! Countrymen! The perfidious act of your reckless enemies to render ineffectual the late resolves of the body of the people, demands your assembling at the Old South Meeting House, precisely at ten o'clock this day, at which time the bells will ring (Drake's Tea Leaves, p. lvii).

Mr. Rotch being again present, was inquired of as before, and a motion was made and seconded that Mr. Rotch be enjoined forthwith to repair to the collectors and demand a clearance for his ship, and ten gentlemen were appointed to accompany him as witnesses of the demand.

Mr. Rotch and the Committee proceeded to the Collector's (Mr. Harrison), but were put off till the next day with an evasive answer. On Thursday morning (16 December) the people met again, and having learned that Mr. Rotch had been refused a clearance by the Collector they required him to enter a protest against the Custom House and demand a pass for his ship from the Governor who was then at his country house in Milton, and adjourned till the afternoon. Meeting again at three (almost 2000 men were present) they waited impatiently till about six o'clock when Mr. Rotch returned with word that the Governor could not be persuaded to give a pass till the ship were cleared by the Custom House. The result was not unexpected; the meeting immediately dissolved, and the same evening the "tea-party" took place on board the three vessels, two ships and a brig, which were lying at Griffin's Wharf. See the account in the Boston Gazette of 27 December, 1773, and in Drake's Tea Leaves, pp. 334-336, from which part of the above is quoted. Gov. Hutchinson's account of the same proceedings is given in his History of Massachusetts, iii. 429-438.

On 14 December, the same day on which Appleton was writing to Pearson, Thomas Hutchinson, Jr., one of the consignees, wrote to his brother from

## II

CAMBRIDGE Dec<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> [1773].

Tuesday Evening

7 o'clock.

DEAR SIR

I receiv'd your kind Fav<sup>r</sup>. of 29<sup>th</sup> ult: this Morning, when I went to Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Osgood & Farrington's Shop to leave your Paper; I can assure you Sir it gave me great Pleasure to receive a Line from you as I have been in anxious Expectation of it these some Weeks past; I had almost despair'd of ever receiving one, but was reliev'd from it by Sir Farrington<sup>1</sup> who inform'd me you had wrote, so concluded it was miscarried which I suppose is the one I have now receiv'd. You have ask'd pardon for your Neglect, which I readily give, on condition that the Number of your future Letters equal mine, or in other words that you write every Opp<sup>o</sup>. I am extremely obliged to you for your Expressions of Friendship towards me who am so unworthy of them, tho' I doubt not they were sincere, as they came from one who I know means to be sincere in

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Castle William (whither most of the consignees had retired on 29 November and where they stayed some six weeks):

I hear there is a meeting of the *mobility* today but don't know the result. I hardly think they will attempt sending the tea back, but am more sure it will not go many leagues (Diary and Letters of Thomas Hutchinson, 1884, i. 96).

Several papers relating to the difficulties in which the consignees of the tea found themselves, and accounts of the riotous proceedings resulting therefrom, were communicated to this Society at its February meeting, 1903. See pp. 78-102, above.

<sup>1</sup> Bachelors of Arts, continuing their residence at the College, were called Sir until they had taken the Master's degree. The use of the term goes back to the very earliest days of the College, when its equivalent Dominus is also found in the records. Mr. Albert Matthews has noted instances of the use of Sir in connection with Harvard College from 1649 to 1790, and calls my attention to the following passage by the Rev. Andrew Clark:

So soon as the candidate had been admitted to the degree he was by courtesy styled 'Bachelor of Arts,' and his name appeared in the University and College books with the prefix for that degree (in Latin 'Dominus,' contracted 'D.'; in English 'Sir,' contracted 'S.'). (Register of the University of Oxford, 1887, ii. i. 50.)

See also B. H. Hall's *College Words and Customs* (1851), p. 279; Sibley, *Harvard Graduates*, i. 17 note, ii. 2 note; Sewall's *Diary*, i. 51; R. N. Toppan, in *Publications of this Society*, iii. 411.

all he says or does. I readily agree with you that the Essence of a Letter consists not in Sublimity of Diction or justness of method as you may perceive by the Inaccuracy of this Scroll. By your Boarding in the best Families I take it for granted that you must enjoy a great Satisfaction in the very agreeable Company of Mr. Phillips & his Lady.<sup>1</sup> I can readily conceive of a School of 110 Scholars employing the most of your Time.<sup>2</sup> As for myself I do not sufficiently improve my Oppourtunities to gain Knowledge although I may be said to receive Nourishment from the Fountain Head, being diverted by much Company & my own natural Fickleness. As to the unhappy Affair concerning the late Pr-s-d-nt it remains as yet in the *dark*. The Corporation are ordered to proceed with all convenient Speed to a new Election; trust that it may be a Repairer of the great Breach which is now made upon the Character of the College. D<sup>r</sup>. Eliot & M<sup>r</sup>. Willard are talked of to succeed to the Chair. As to the S. Cl. Affairs are not yet thoroughly settled, but when they are, will inform you. When I go to Boston, will stop your Paper according to your Desire. M<sup>r</sup>. Gannet our new Tutor is generally liked. S<sup>r</sup>. Parsons<sup>3</sup> is well, he proposes to tarry here the Vacancy, believe I shall do so likewise. If you'll write to your Chum Cutler & send it to me I will endeavour to send it by Emerson who goes either next Week or the Week after next. The detested TEA is the

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Phillips, who a few years later was chiefly instrumental in the foundation of Phillips Academy, graduated from Harvard College in 1771. He married in 1773 Miss Phoebe Foxcroft, youngest daughter of the Hon. Francis Foxcroft of Cambridge, whom he had known while in College. Pearson and Appleton were doubtless well acquainted with her also, for all had been parishioners of Appleton's grandfather, the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Appleton. Phillips's grandfather was the Rev. Samuel Phillips of Andover, pastor of the church there for almost sixty years, who had died 5 June, 1771, at the age of 81.

<sup>2</sup> This was the Andover Grammar School, first established in 1700. Of forty-five masters of this school before 1792, all but five were Harvard graduates. See Sarah L. Bailey's *Historical Sketches of Andover* (1880), p. 522.

<sup>3</sup> Theodore Parsons, son of the Rev. Moses Parsous of Byfield, and younger brother of Theophilus Parsons, Chief-Justice of Massachusetts. Prof. Theophilus Parsons says of him:

From my earliest childhood I was accustomed to hear my uncle Theodore spoken of as having been the star of the family. I am quite sure that as much was expected from him as from my father, if not more. He studied medicine [in Newburyport], and was with the army in Rhode Island in 1778, and wrote many letters home. Immediately afterward he went to sea as surgeon of a privateer, and after one letter was never heard of more. (*Memoir of Theophilus Parsons, by his Son*, p. 26.)

general Topic of Conversation, the Council<sup>1</sup> met to day but did *not* advise to the Issuing of a *Proclamation* in order to *discover* the Persons concern'd in destroying the s'd Tea. M<sup>r</sup>. Attorney General<sup>2</sup> has been pleas'd to s[t]ile it HIGH TREASON perhaps he thinks that *great Words* will put this People in Terror, but I believe he is mistaken; if the other Colonies send back or destroy those Teas sent them; I am apt to think it will be hush'd; but if it should prove otherwise, take care poor *Boston*. Thank you for the *Compliment* (for as such I shall consider it) of your being surpass'd by the Spirit & Elegance of *my Letters*. I hope that I shall not be *strict* to mark Iniquity. Shall let your Plea of a stiff thumb bear its full Sway — doubtless ere this you are *tired* of reading so I conclude by assuring you that the oftner I receive Letters from *you*, the more Satisfaction & Pleasure it will certainly give

PS. Pray excuse my  
Interlinings & other Errors  
particularly *Egotism*.

Your sincere Friend  
NATH<sup>L</sup>. WALKER APPLETON.

M<sup>r</sup>. ELIPHALET PEARSON  
in  
Andover.

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<sup>1</sup> The account of this Council meeting in the Boston Gazette of 27 December, 1773, is as follows:

At a Council held at the House of the hon'ble William Brattle, Esq; in Cambridge on Tuesday the 21st day of December 1773.

PRESENT.

His Excellency THOMAS HUTCHINSON, Esq; GOVERNOR.  
SAMUEL DANFORTH, WILLM. BRATTLE, JAMES PITTS,  
ISAAC ROYAL, Esq's JAMES BOWDOIN, JOHN WINTHROP,  
JOHN ERVING, JAMES RUSSELL Esq's (Esq's).

His Excellency acquainted the Council that the reason he had summoned them to meet at this time was that he might have their advice relating to the high handed Riot on the evening of the 16th Instant between the hours of six and nine o'Clock, committed by persons disguised and unknown, on board three Vessels lately arrived from London then lying at a Wharfe in the Southerly part of the Town of Boston known by the name of Griffin's Wharfe, — After long debate it was —

*Advised*, That the Attorney General be directed to make diligent inquiry into the offence aforesaid in order to discover the offenders, and that he lay his discoveries before the Grand Jury for his Majesty's Superior Court of Judicature &c. for the County of Suffolk, at their next Term, in order for prosecution (p. 3/1).

<sup>2</sup> The Attorney General at that time was Jonathan Sewall (Whitmore's Massachusetts Civil List, p. 124).

## III

CAMBRIDGE Dec: 27<sup>th</sup>: 1773.

DEAR FRIEND

I receiv'd your's of 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. on 24<sup>th</sup> at Night. I can assure you it gave very great Pleasure to receive so kind & long a Letter from one whose sincere Friendship towards me merits my highest Esteem. I congratulate you on your being as well situated as most, (perhaps I may say as well as any) of your Order. I hope you have ere this receiv'd my two Letters with your News Paper of 20<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. inclos'd in one; the other directed as if fav'd. by Mr. S. A[ ] though they did not go by him, both I believe bear Date 21<sup>st</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. Mess<sup>rs</sup> [Osgood and] Farrington's Shop really cuts a *Flash*, I doubt not but they 'll make it do well after they get their Distill-House up; As such a Shop &c was very much wanted in this Town. I readily agree with you in your Remarks upon the *detested TEA*, which now causes & has caus'd more trouble & Vexation, Expence & Luxury, & perhaps such Consequences will (next Spring) follow upon the People's being *obliged* to destroy it, as the Wealth even of the EAST INDIES itself will never be able to REPAIR. I mean both its moral & political Consequences. However We must leave this & all other Matters to him who rulest & ordainest all things in infinite Wisdom. The Corporation met this Day at my Grandfathers in order to consult & deliberate upon the important Affair before them, as soon as they come to a Choice I'll endeavour to inform you. Perhaps my dropping the following Expressions in one of my Letters (viz: "If you 'll condescend to write me") was through inadvertency, but I now *recall* it. Will endeavour to follow your kind Directions concerning the S—C— & when things are fully ripe, will write you. Forgot to stop your Paper on Friday when I was at Boston but will endeavour to remember it next Time. If your Paper comes to Town in Season will inclose but, if it should not, will send it the first Opp<sup>o</sup>. This Goes by *Doct<sup>r</sup>*. Bowman who is to go off to-morrow-morning early. This the needful at present from your sincere Friend

NATH<sup>L</sup>. WALKER APPLETON.

Mr. E. PEARSON, Pedagogue.

PS. D<sup>r</sup>. Bowman in[forms m]e that you talk of coming down soon, pray inform me as to the Truth of it.

Y<sup>rs</sup> ut Supra.

[Addressed]

To Mr Eliphalet Pearson  
School-Master

Fav'd by                      in  
D<sup>r</sup> Bowman                      Andover

## IV

DEAR ELIPHALET

I wish you a happy *new Year*.

Hope you have ere this receiv'd my two last, as I have not been at Boston since I wrote you. I did not stop your Paper, but I intend to go certainly this Week & will endeavour to remember it, pray write me every Opp? All well. The News you'll see in the Paper, the *Indians*<sup>1</sup> are determined that there shall be no Tea used any where. I rec'd a line from Cutler yesterday, he is well & in good Spirits. I propose to tarry here this Vacancy.<sup>2</sup> St. Parsons tarries here as *Scarecrow*.<sup>3</sup>

So this the needful at present

from your sincere Friend

N W APPLETON.

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<sup>1</sup> The example of the Boston "tea-party" was imitated on a smaller scale on several occasions, and the accounts of such proceedings are found in the papers of the day and were evidently relished by their readers. The Boston Gazette of 3 January, 1774, notices two such cases:

Whereas it was reported that one Withington, of Dorchester, had taken up and partly disposed of a Chest of the East-India Company's Tea: a Number of the Cape or Narragansett-Indians, went to the Houses of Capt. Ebenezer Withington, and his Brother Philip Withington, (both living upon the lower Road from Boston to Milton) last Friday Evening [31 December], and with their consent thoroughly searched their Houses, without offering the least offence to any one. But finding no Tea they proceeded to the House of old Ebenezer Withington, at a place called Sodom, below Dorchester Meeting-House, where they found part of a half chest which had floated, and was cast up on Dorchester point. This they seized and brought to Boston Common where they committed it to the flames (p. 3/1).

The Vessel which bro't up the Goods (last Saturday) saved out of Capt. Loring's Brig, was the same Evening thoroughly searched by Indians, and no TEA found on board. Such a good Look-out being kept, *What occasion is there for TIDE-WAITER'S, PIMPS, or INFORMERS?* (p. 3/2).

Sodom was a name applied to the low lands east of Meeting House Hill bounded, practically, by East, Freeport, High, and Church Streets.

<sup>2</sup> Vacations at this time (under vote of 6 June, 1766) were four each year, one of four weeks following Commencement, one of two weeks from the third Wednesday in October, one of five weeks from the first Wednesday in January, and one of two weeks from the second Wednesday in April. The vacations in spring and autumn were provided expressly that the students might visit their homes and get their summer or winter clothing in order.

<sup>3</sup> This is explained by the Faculty vote of 3 January, 1774: "Voted that Sir Parsons have the whole care of the Colleges this Vacation." The term was evidently in common use, and was accepted by Faculty as well as students, for it occurs at least once in the Faculty Records — as the marginal note against a similar vote, 14 August, 1776.

To  
 ELIPHALET PEARSON A. B.  
 in  
 p<sup>r</sup> the Bearer. Andover  
 PS. The People of Charlestown burnt their *Tea* last Friday  
 at Noon.<sup>1</sup>  
 Y<sup>rs</sup>  
 E. P. A B N W A  
 [Addressed]  
 For  
 M<sup>r</sup> Eliphalet Pearson  
 in  
 Andover

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<sup>1</sup> The Boston Gazette (Supplement) of 27 December, 1773, reports that on 25 December, the dealers in Charlestown resolved and agreed—

That we will not after this Day, directly or indirectly, by Ourselves or any for or under Us, buy or sell or suffer to be used in our Families, any TEA, until the Duty is repealed.

And whereas some of us may have more Tea on hand than others, in order that the Loss may fall equally, Voted, That the same be bought at the joint Expence of this Company and destroyed (p. 1/3).

The Boston Gazette of 3 January, 1774, gives the further proceedings of the people of Charlestown in respect to the use of tea :

At a legal and very full Meeting, of the Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Charlestown, December 28, 1773.

The following Votes were *Unanimously* passed.

1. Considering the Advantages that will result to this Community (in every Point of Light) from the Disuse of *India Tea*; We will not by ourselves, or any from or under us, buy or sell, or suffer to be us'd in ou[r] Families, any such *Tea*, till the British Act of Parliament, imposing a Duty on the *same* shall be repealed.

2. That a Committee be chosen to collect from all the Inhabitants of this Town, all the *Tea* they may have by them; and that such Persons, as shall deliver up the *same* to said Committee, be paid by the Town the Price it cost them. And that the *Tea* so collected, be destroyed by Fire, on Friday next at Noon-Day, in the Market Place.

3. That Messrs. *Isaiah Edes, Samuel Conant, Caleb Call, Benjamin Hurd, Samuel Wait, Battry Powars* and *David Wood*, jun. be the committee for the Purposes above mentioned.

4. That the above named Persons, be a Committee of Inspection, to see that all the foregoing Votes be fully complied with.

5. That if any of the Inhabitants of this Town, shall do any thing to counteract, or render ineffectual the foregoing Votes, they are not only inimical to the Liberty of AMERICA in general, but also show a daring Disrespect to this Town in particular.

6. That the Committee of Correspondence, for this Town confer with the Committee

## V

CAMBRIDGE Jany. 4th 1773 [1774]

11 o'Clock A. M.

DEAR FRIEND

I receiv'd your Letters bearing Date Decr. 28 & 31<sup>st</sup> this Day at 10 o'Clock & not before. Went immediately over to College, but *alass* Sheaffe,<sup>1</sup> Clarke, Rogers, Penhallow, McClintock, *Emerson*, Fenton & King were all gone off this Morning, I hunted all over College to find one going that way, after a Search & Inquiry of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an Hour I found one *Evans* a freshman, that belongs to Dover, he'll set off this Afternoon, says, that he has opportunities *every* Day to send to York, so I committed the Letter to his Custody, trusting that it will arrive *safe* at

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of Correspondence for the Town of *Boston*, and desire their Influence, that similar Measures may be taken in their Town.

7. That the above Proceedings of this Town, be published in the News-Papers.

A Copy,

Attest. SETH SWEETSER, Town Clerk (p. 3/1).

The same issue of the same paper reports the carrying out of the vote to destroy the tea on hand :

The Inhabitants of Charlestown, agreeable to a unanimous Vote of said Town the Tuesday preceeding, on Friday last voluntarily bro't *all* their TEA into the public Market Square, where it was committed to the Flames at high Noon-Day. — *An Example well worthy Imitation!!* (p. 3/2).

<sup>1</sup> Sheaffe, Clarke, Rogers, Emerson, and Barnard were members of the Senior Class (1774); McClintock and Osgood graduated in 1775; Penhallow, King, and Evans graduated in 1777; Poor is more likely to have been Daniel Noyes Poor of West Newbury, of the Class of 1777, rather than John Poor of 1775, who came from New Hampshire. Joseph Evans's home was in Dover. Thomas Fenton was a Freshman, but left College before completing the course. The Faculty Records (iii. 243) state that he was born 17 January, 1757, and give Charlestown as his residence. He was doubtless the son of Capt. John Fenton of Boston, who, with wife Elizabeth, lived in Charlestown, where the father, sometimes described as of Boston, was taxed, 1770–1773, as a landed proprietor (Wyman, *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown*, i. 343). John Fenton and Elizabeth Temple published their marriage intentions 29 September, 1755 (Boston Record Commissioners' Reports, xxx. 16). Elizabeth Temple was doubtless the daughter of Robert Temple of Ten Hills by his wife Mehitable, daughter of John Nelson, and was baptized at Christ Church, Boston, 9 April, 1727. Capt. John Fenton was of the British Army and died in Dublin, Ireland, in March, 1785, leaving issue. See P. Temple, *Some Account of the Temple Family*, Second edition (1894), p. 34 and *note*. For this information about Fenton, I am indebted to Mr. Henry H. Edes.



its destined Port. The Letter in which your Paper is enclos'd was wrote at 9 o'Clock this Morn. I could find no one going Andover Road, Osgood, Poor & Barnard gone off, so I now write an Answer waiting the first Opp<sup>o</sup>. to send. — Now for your Letters — Perhaps one Reason why you would not write on any *learned* Subject was because you thought, (I say perhaps) that *I* should *not* understand. I do *not* like your *Method* of writing, it is too much like sermonizing, which you know we have twice every Week, however I'll allow for *your* writing, as perhaps it may be in order to get your hand in, as I suppose you intend to *pr—ch*. Whenever you do undertake to write a Sermon I hope that you'll not go to Work in this Way as it will be (as *you* very well say) all *Method* & no *Matter*, it will answer to spin out the Hour, but I trust you'll be enabled to entertain your Audience an Hour, with *Matter* as well as *Method*. You may remember that in the 3<sup>d</sup> place under the 2<sup>d</sup> place which was under 1<sup>st</sup> Head you have these Words “ 3<sup>rd</sup> Thirdly the alleviation or mollification of the Condition ” which please to explain in your next. Remember you have promised me the other 4 Heads when you have Time. Am glad you slept some & was some refreshed after sermonizing till Midnight. As for me I intend to tarry here & embrace the Privilege of living here till the Spring when I propose to go & live with some Practitioner in *Physic* perhaps at *Boston*. As for News & Curiosities I have nothing except what is in the papers. I conclude that by the Time you receive this you'll be out of Concern for Boston as all the Colonies have in a Manner *united*. *The detest'd Plant* is not drank in the Hall,<sup>1</sup> perhaps it may be in some *few* private Chambers;

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<sup>1</sup> Despite what Appleton says of the use of tea in the Hall (in Harvard Hall), its use was revived to some extent and it came to be a source of trouble, as is shown by the following extract from the Faculty Records of 1 March, 1775:

A Disorder having arisen this morning in the Hall at breakfast, between some of the Students, respecting the drinking of India Tea; & some of the Utensils for breakfasting having been broke: & the Parties having been heard —

*Resolved* 1. We disapprove of the conduct on both sides as imprudent.

*Resolved* 2. That the regulation of the Hall belongs exclusively to the Government of the College, & consequently that no Students have a right to interpose with regard thereunto, & that those Students who have thus interposed have conducted disorderly in this respect, & ought to make restitution for the Property of their fellow Students, by such interposition destroyed.

*Resolved* 3. Since the carrying India Teas into the Hall is found to be a Source of uneasiness & grief to many of the Students, and as the use of it is disagreeable to the People of this Country in general; & as those who have carried Tea into the Hall declare that the drinking of it in the Hall is a matter of trifling consequence with them; that they be advised not to carry it in for the future, & in this way that they, as well as the other Students in all ways, discover a disposition to promote harmony, mutual affection,

for my part have not drank any this sometime & believe I shall not till the *Duty* is repealed &c. Shall expect to see you here this Winter. Thus much for your's bearing Date 28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. Thank you for your Wish of a happy new Year. Am sorry you are not pleas'd with the Tea Dealers in Boston.<sup>1</sup> I would just ask you one Question. Pray what

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& confidence, so well becoming Members of the same Society : that so peace & happiness may be preserved within the Walls of the College whatever convulsions may unhappily distract the State abroad (iv. 4, 5).

A similar state of feeling against the use of tea at Princeton is shown by the following paragraph in the Boston Gazette of 14 February, 1774 :

By a Gentleman just arrived from Princetown, in New-Jersey, we are informed, that the Students of Nassau College, being determined to contribute their Assistance towards discountenancing the Use of the detested Tea, collected all that was in the College, and voluntarily made a burnt Sacrifice of the same. They also burnt the Effigies of Governor H——n, amidst the repeated Acclamations of a large Crowd of Spectators (p. 3/2).

<sup>1</sup> In the Boston Gazette of 20 December appeared a "Notification," dated 18 December, 1773, as follows :

At a Meeting of some of the principal Venders of TEAS in Boston, on Friday Evening the 17th Instant, for consulting and determining on suitable Measures to be adopted, and to cooperate with a Number of respectable Inhabitants of this Province, express'd by a Vote of their late Assembly to suppress the Use of that detested Article; the more fully to execute this Purpose, it was agreed that a general and full Meeting should be convened on Tuesday the 21st Instant, 5 o'Clock, P. M. at the Royal Exchange Tavern in King-Street; where it is desired and expected that all the Dealers in, and Venders of Teas will punctually attend.

N. B. It is earnestly desired that those concern'd would not fail of giving attendance at the Time fix'd (p. 3/2).

The resolutions passed at the meeting are given in the Boston Gazette (Supplement) of 27 December, 1773 :

*At a Meeting of a large Number of the principal Dealers in Teas in Boston, the 20th and continued by Adjournment to the 23d of December, 1773.*

[A preamble rehearses the dangerous character of the ministerial movement in favor of the East India Company, and laments the interruption of that reciprocal affection which had formerly subsisted between the parent state and the Colonies, and continues:]

Apprehending it may be in some degree in our power, to facilitate this wish'd for State, by our late Connections, as sellers of the article thus burthen'd, and the consequent influence we must have in suppressing its use : This consideration, hath begot an expectation in many of our fellow-citizens, and countrymen, that we do unite our endeavors with theirs in exterminating this destructive herb from the province —

It must be evident to our Friends and Countrymen, in the Seaports and other Towns, that a congruity of action at this important crisis, is as necessary, as a unanimity of sentiment; and that this instance of disinterestedness we are about to exhibit, by a voluntary surrender of an advantageous article of commerce, when oppos'd to the public good, will stimulate them to adopt similar measures to ours; in this confidence, sup-

Good does it do to burn their Tea for which they have paid the Duty &c? Let them stand by their Resolution not to import, vend or use any more. The 39 Protestors of Plymouth, are universally despis'd.<sup>1</sup>

ported by a recollection of their inflexible virtue, frequently, and recently manifested, — We cheerfully enter into the following Resolves;

1. That from and after the 20th January 1774, we will totally suspend the sale of all Teas, until the sense, and determination of the Inhabitants of the Sea-Ports and other Towns, can be known, with respect to its total expulsion; or until a repeal of the Revenue Act may take place.

2. That we will not in the mean time, purchase on our own account, or receive on commissions, or otherwise, any Tea whatever.

3. That the Tea we have by us unsold, which cost us 5s shall be sold at no more than 4d. advance, until the time limited for suspending the sale.

4. That a Committee be appointed to apply to all the Dealers in Tea, in this Town, to obtain their compliance to these Resolves, and make report of the same, with the Names of those who decline, (if any there may be) at our next meeting.

5. That if from the change of circumstances, or the intervention of other causes, any Tea of our number shall judge it necessary to call a Meeting, to make any alterations or to adopt other measures to affect the aforesaid purpose, they have our Consent to do it.

N. B. It is desired that all persons concern'd would consider the importance of a just determination, and be prepared to give answer to the Committee, who will apply to them in a few days.

The result of the labors of the committee appointed in accordance with the fourth resolution was reported as follows in the Boston Gazette of 24 January, 1774:

BOSTON, JANUARY 20. — The Committee appointed at the late Meeting of the Dealers in Tea in this Town, joined by a Gentleman from the Committee of Correspondence in this Place, to repair to the Persons concerned in the Sale of that Article to obtain their Assent, and Subscription to the Resolves passed at said Meeting; have in Conformity, applied to the principal Dealers, and find the Numbers to stand thus,

79 against the Sale and Use of all Tea,

9 for the Sale and Use only of such as may not be subjected to Duty.

This being the Day fixed when the Sale of Tea will cease, it is desired and expected that such who have agreed to, as well as those who have subscribed the Resolves offered to them by the Committee, will strictly adhere thereto; and it is wished that the Few who have not, will on a Reconsideration, perceive the Utility and Necessity of the Measure, and immediately join their disinterested Fellow-Citizens in the same Resolutions (p. 3/1).

<sup>1</sup> On 7 December, 1773, the citizens of Plymouth passed resolutions supporting and approving the action of the Boston patriots. These were published in Draper's Gazette of 23 December. On 13 December a protest against the resolutions and reflecting severely on the course taken by the Old South meeting, was signed by 39 persons (see Boston Gazette, Supplement, of 27 December). Several of the signers afterward withdrew their adherence to the protest.

You mention that you'll "enclose something concerning the S- C if you have Time" as you have not please to remember it in your next. I believe you must excuse my not complying with your Request of burning your *nonsensical* Letter (as *you* are pleas'd to call it) as I shall keep it amongst my *valuable* Papers. Excuse the Incoherence of this Scroll, concluding that by this Time you are pretty well tired, I conclude by

subscribing myself  
Yours affectionately  
NATH<sup>L</sup>. WALKER APPLETON.

To the Pedagogue  
of Andover.

[*Addressed*]

To  
Mr Eliphalet Pearson  
Schoolmaster  
in Andover

## VI

CAMBRIDGE, Febr: 10<sup>th</sup>: 1774

DEAR ELIPHALET :

Inclos'd is another of your Papers, which you'll perhaps be as surpris'd to see, as I was to hear y<sup>t</sup> it was at Mr. Howe's. I called at the printers some time since (as I think I wrote you) who promis'd me they would stop the paper, but by some Accident it came this Week, the next time I go to Boston, I'll endeavour to remember it. This goes by S<sup>r</sup> Parsons who can inform you of all the news so need not write it. We are appre[he]nsive that we shall be able to put a Stop to the prog-

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Barnabas Hedge did so in a card published in the Boston Gazette of 27 December; thirteen others "who were inadvertently seduced into an error by artifice and misrepresentation" recanted in the Boston Gazette of 24 January, 1774.

The papers of December, 1773, and January, 1774, are full of accounts of meetings held in the surrounding towns to uphold the act of 16 December and the agreement to give up the use of India tea. The action of the other Colonies in regard to the same matter was also set forth at length, and accounts of the burning of tea are frequent. For example, in the Boston Gazette of 24 January, 1774, we read:

Last Thursday a large Quantity of Bohea Tea given up by some Gentlemen was committed to the Flames in King-Street (p. 3/1).

ress of the small-pox in this Town. Doct<sup>r</sup> Cooper<sup>1</sup> is chosen presid<sup>t</sup> but it is doubtful whither he will accept; on some Acct<sup>r</sup>: it would do; tho' not on others, so trust he'll be directed for the best. You may remember y<sup>t</sup> in your last you promis'd to write me this Vacancy, but as I have not rec'd a Line from you for some time, shall expect one soon. As to the Affair of the Judges &c & of the S— C— Parsons can give you a much more full & intelligible Acct. than I can possibly write you. Expect to hear soon from Cutler & if I receive a Letter for you, I'll send it along p<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Opp<sup>r</sup>

Excuse this incoherent, & unintelligible Scroll  
from your Sincere Friend

NATH<sup>L</sup> WALK<sup>R</sup> APPLETON.

P S. I would just in form you  
that D<sup>r</sup> Cooper's Dudleian Lecture -  
Sermon<sup>2</sup> is out & to be had at Greenleaf's  
printing Office price 7/6 in Orange Tree-Lane  
Yrs N W A

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<sup>1</sup> On 31 January, 1774, the Hon. John Winthrop was chosen President in place of Samuel Locke. On 7 February, "Dr. Winthrop having declined accepting the Office of President," the Rev. Dr. Cooper of Boston was chosen. Dr. Cooper also declined, and the Corporation on 15 July chose Dr. Eliot, but he also, a Fellow of the Corporation and present at the meeting at which he was elected, declined immediately. On 18 July the Rev. Dr. Samuel Langdon of Portsmouth was chosen and accepted the office.

<sup>2</sup> The following is the title-page of Dr. Cooper's Discourse:

A  
DISCOURSE  
ON THE  
MAN OF SIN;  
DELIVERED IN THE  
CHAPEL of HARVARD COLLEGE,  
IN  
CAMBRIDGE, NEW-ENGLAND,  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1773:  
At the LECTURE, FOUNDED  
By the HONORABLE  
PAUL DUDLEY, ESQ.

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By SAMUEL COOPER, D. D.  
Pastor of the Church in *Brattle-Street*, BOSTON.

---

BOSTON: Printed and Sold at GREENLEAF'S  
Printing-Office, in HANOVER-STREET.  
M,DCC,LXXIV.

[Addressed]

For

Mr Eliphalet Pearson

in

Andover

Fav'd by }  
M<sup>r</sup> T. Parsons }

VII

CAMBRIDGE, Feby. 21<sup>st</sup> 1774

$\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 o'clock Evening

DEAR FRIEND

I was very glad to hear by S<sup>r</sup> Parsons of your Welfare. As I am inform'd Mr. Farrington sets off for Andover tomorrow-morning early, take this 1<sup>st</sup> Opp<sup>o</sup> of sending your Paper of 14<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>i</sup> since which time I have been at Boston & stopt it, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Edes & Gill desired me to inform you that you Now owe for 6 Months viz<sup>t</sup> from Aug<sup>i</sup> 15 to Feb<sup>y</sup>. 15. The Gov<sup>t</sup> still refuses to comply with the reasonable Request of the House with respect to the removal of Judge Oliver.<sup>1</sup> The Court is to sit tomorrow what the Event will be we know not. As it is late I shall conclude

with informing you that I shall *certainly*  
expect a Letter from you to

Your sincere Friend

NATH<sup>l</sup> WALK<sup>r</sup> APPLETON

by the Bearer hereof.

NO PRESIDENT

as yet S<sup>r</sup>

To a pedagogue at  
Andover

[Addressed]

For

M<sup>r</sup> Eliphalet Pearson

at

Andover

Fav'd by }  
M<sup>r</sup> Farrington<sup>2</sup> }

<sup>1</sup> See the Publications of this Society, v. 71-74 and notes.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 324 note, below.

## VIII

SALEM <sup>1</sup> November 21 1774

DEAR FRIEND

It is so long since either of us has wrote the other that I actually forget which is in default, however it would be inexcusable in me not to embrace this Opp<sup>o</sup> of writing you by my father, who I expect will set out to-morrow or the next day, for Cambridge in order to attend the Congress which is adjourn'd to 23<sup>rd</sup> Ins: —

SALEM 22<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1774

We had the pleasure of seeing our Friend T. Parsons Yesterday. I see him and that was all, for he hurried thro' the town as if he had been afraid to stay in it, however I cannot really blame him considering that the Weather has turn'd out to be such as renders it very disagreeable travelling. It is sometime since I heard from our Friends N. Cutler, or S. Crosby. What do you think of the Parliament's being dissolved? Is it a Maneuvre of L<sup>d</sup> North's or was the Clamour of the people the Occasion of it? Time will soon discover to us the Cause and the Effect of it, grant that it may prove salutary to this long oppress'd and distress'd

*politics before  
Harvard was*

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<sup>1</sup> Appleton took up the study of medicine in Salem with Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke (born 1 August, 1728, H. C. 1746), son of President Holyoke by his second wife Margaret Appleton, a sister of the Rev. Nathaniel Appleton for so many years minister in Cambridge. Dr. Holyoke was therefore the cousin of Appleton's father. He had settled in Salem in 1749 and continued to practise there until his death in 1829. He was the first President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and was President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Harvard conferred on him the honorary degree of M.D. in 1783 (the first instance of the degree's being so conferred by the College), and that of LL.D. in 1815. For sketches of Dr. Holyoke, see Massachusetts Medical Society, Medical Dissertations (1829), iv. 186-260; Essex Institute Historical Collections, iii. 59, 60, iv. 273, 274.

Edward Barnard and Francis Borland, who graduated in the year after Appleton (1774), entered upon the study of medicine under Dr. Holyoke at the same time.

Appleton seems to have been living in Salem with another cousin of his father's, a sister of Dr. Holyoke, Margaret (Holyoke) Mascarene, the wife of John Mascarene, comptroller of the customs in 1760. William Pynchon's Diary shows continual references to Dr. Holyoke and Mrs. Mascarene. John Mascarene died 24 September, 1779. See *Heraldic Journal*, ii. 125, 126; *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, ix. 239-247, x. 143-148; *Boston Record Commissioners' Reports*, xxviii. 294.

• People; but I'll have done with Politics and proceed to ask you in what State the S— C of Harv: Coll is in; is it ruined or no, if not do exert yourselves to restore it to its pristine Splendor. I hope the Clitonian has not superceded it; — Pray write me soon, my Respects to the several Persons who compose that agreeable Family in which you have the pleasure to reside at present; My Compliments to M<sup>r</sup>: Wadsworth and our other Friends at the Seat of the Muses — pray inform me how the new Pr-s-d-t performs the several Functions of his new & important Station. Please to remember that you are now in some measure indebted to

Your sincere Friend  
& Class-Mate  
NATH<sup>l</sup>: WALK<sup>r</sup>: APPLETON

ELIPHALET PEARSON A. B.  
Cambridge

[Addressed]

To

M<sup>r</sup>: Eliphalet Pearson

To be left at	}	in
Mad <sup>m</sup> : Holyoke's.		Cambridge

IX

SALEM Jan<sup>y</sup>: 24<sup>th</sup> 1775

DEAR FRIEND

I embrace this Opp<sup>o</sup>: by the Doctor & his Lady to return a short Answer to your last kind Epistle, which I should answer more fully, but as Debts of that sort are generally cancelled by a Visit, I shall expect a Letter from you by the return of the Bearers, if you are not too much engaged in their agreeable Company, my Respects to our Friend Theodore & please to let him know that I shall expect the same Favour from him. As to the Affairs of the Town w[h]ither publick or family you will learn from the Doct<sup>r</sup>: &c. Being in great haste you must excuse my being short & may expect a longer one the next Opp<sup>o</sup>: from

Your sincere Friend  
N W APPLETON

My

Tuesday 10 °Clock A M—

To

ELIPHALET PEARSON A B  
Student in Divinity  
at  
Cambridge



[Addressed]

To  
M<sup>r</sup> Eliphalet Pearson  
Student of Divinity  
in  
Cambridge

Favoured by  
D<sup>r</sup> Holyoke & Lady }

X

SALEM March 5<sup>th</sup> 1775Anniversary of the Massacre

DEAR FRIEND

I improve this first Opp<sup>o</sup> after you[r] last, sudden & short Visit, to renew a Correspondence which has been interrupted these some Months. I cannot think of this melancholy Day, without Horror & Trembling, to consider the fatal Consequences of placing a standing Army in time of peace in a free & populous City; but alas instead of removing that Army forever after that fatal Night from that unhappy Town, we now find it full of those mercenary Wretches, who are always ready to obey the Nod of a ministerial T-r-nt. I understand that Doct<sup>r</sup> Warren<sup>1</sup> is to pronounce the Oration on the morrow at which I suppose you'll be present; please to write concerning this and other matters by my Father who will come from Cambridge hither on Wednesday next. M<sup>r</sup> Mascarene has had an ill turn these two nights, all other Friends pretty well. Hope you'll call soon upon the S—C— and give me some information concerning that Cl— of which I have the Honor to be a fellow-Member with you, am therefore desirous of knowing of its prosperity & Success, and that it may continue for a long time yet to come a Blessing and Ornament to the Sons of Harvard is the earnest Wish of him who subscribes himself

Dear Eliph: your sincere Friend —

NATH<sup>l</sup> W. APPLETON

Remember me to your  
agreeable Family & College Friends

ELIPHALET PEARSON A. B.  
in Cambridge.

[Addressed]

For  
M<sup>r</sup> Eliphalet Pearson  
in  
Cambridge

To be left at  
Mad<sup>m</sup> Holyoke's }

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<sup>1</sup> This was of course Joseph Warren, whose Oration was delivered on March sixth because the fifth fell on Sunday.

## XI

SALEM May 30<sup>th</sup> — 1776

Thursday AM.

DEAR FRIEND

Understanding that Mr<sup>s</sup> Mascarene would have an Opp<sup>o</sup> to send to Andover <sup>1</sup> this Week I could not neglect it altho' I wrote you *yesterday* what you will esteem nothing but a mere Scroll. I have again & again perus'd your Essay if I may so call it with impartial attention. You desire me not to fail to give you my Sentiments *fully* upon it. I wrote you yesterday *concise*. Ever since I first heard of the Act (for you must know I have never seen it) the *Name* of a TEST Act <sup>2</sup> struck me with surprise; (if anything can be surprising that the last Gen<sup>l</sup> C-rt did) I have never yet talked with any one upon it, but have entirely agreed with me, that it is arbitrary, tyrannical, & even *blasphemous*. If I was to enlarge it would be nearly a repetition of what you have wrote. But what *one good End* will it *i. e.* the Act answer, my Friend? if possible answer that Question. My having been in the same predicament as yourself is the *only* apology I shall offer for not having wrote you before. As you & Cousin priscy<sup>3</sup> have had thoughts for this some time past to visit Salem hope you'll not give them over but make us happy with

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<sup>1</sup> At this time the College was still in exile from Cambridge. Early in May, 1775, the library and philosophical apparatus had been removed to Andover by direction of the Provincial Congress. In September the Overseers directed that the College be removed to Concord and a part, if not the whole, of the library and apparatus was installed in the same place in a private house. They did not return to Cambridge until 21 June, 1776. During this period Pearson naturally returned to his friends the Phillipses in Andover, and seems to have continued his theological studies.

<sup>2</sup> The Act passed 1 May, 1776 (Massachusetts Province Laws, v. 479-484), required all persons to subscribe to a declaration that they sympathized with the Colonies and would not assist in any way the British forces, on pain of disarming, and being disqualified from holding office, voting, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Priscilla, daughter of President Holyoke by his second wife Margaret Appleton, born 29 July, 1739, later became Pearson's wife. Does this passage imply that Pearson and Appleton had both become engaged about this time? President Holyoke married for his third wife Mary (Whipple) Epes, the widow of Major Symonds Epes. See Hammatt Papers (1854), p. 94. Mrs. Holyoke lived to an extreme age and died at Cambridge 20 March, 1790. The following notice appeared in the Massachusetts Centinel of Wednesday, 24 March, 1790:

*DIED*] — At Cambridge, last Saturday evening, Madam MARY HOLYOKE, widow of the late Rev. President Holyoke, aged 91. Her funeral procession will move from the house of Mrs. Elizabeth Kneeland, this afternoon, precisely at 4 o'clock (p. 11/2).

your Company soon. My love to Miss Epes congratulate her upon her recovery. Dear Friend I am really concern'd for Cousin Betsy,<sup>1</sup> but M<sup>r</sup>s Mascarene will write by this Opp<sup>o</sup> our good Doct<sup>r</sup>s *Advice* upon the matter. I understood last week by *Johnny Low*<sup>2</sup> that our Friend Parsons & plummer were gone to be inoculated. I could wish you might have been with them. M<sup>r</sup> Barnard set out last Saturday from Haverhill for N<sup>o</sup> 5<sup>3</sup> on the same Acc<sup>t</sup> so he will doubtless meet them there — in consequence my Duty in the Shop &c will engage my Attention more closely for a Month or so. O Quebec! Quebec!<sup>4</sup> — I delivered Miss Polly Smith's letter yesterday P M — perhaps she will return an Answer at this Opp<sup>o</sup> — I have made a few Extracts from Macquer's Chymistry on the Phlogiston<sup>5</sup> — the Acids — Salts — Metals & Semi-

<sup>1</sup> This was no doubt Mrs. Mascarene's sister Elizabeth Holyoke, a daughter of President Edward and Margaret (Appleton) Holyoke. She was born 25 April, 1732, married William Kneeland of Boston, and died 15 September, 1821.

<sup>2</sup> John Low and Joshua Plummer were both classmates of Appleton and Pearson.

<sup>3</sup> It is not easy to identify this place. Township Number Five was granted by Massachusetts 16 January, 1735-36, to men from Hopkinton, and was called New Hopkinton until its incorporation on 10 January, 1765, as Hopkinton, New Hampshire (New Hampshire Town Papers, xii. 255-272). There was also in Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, Massachusetts, a large plantation called Number Five (Massachusetts Province Laws, v. 911, 1072). But it is difficult to see why any one should have gone to such remote places for inoculation.

<sup>4</sup> Arnold's unsuccessful expedition through the wilderness to attack Quebec, after a useless siege had finally retreated in May.

<sup>5</sup> Phillips and Pearson at this time had been occupied in learning how to make gunpowder, of which the Continental army during the winter of 1775-1776 had been in desperate need. Samuel Phillips, then a member of the Provincial Congress sitting at Watertown, proposed to the House to erect a powder-mill at Andover with their concurrence, and the House accepted his proposition. (See Massachusetts House Journals, 2, 3, 6, 8 January, 1776, pp. 105, 107, 122, 124.) Phillips obtained the ready co-operation of his townsmen in cutting a canal and building the mill (Taylor's Memoir of Samuel Phillips, 1856, p. 70), and Pearson threw himself with ardor into the necessary chemical experiments. William E. Park writes :

The whole difficulty lay in procuring saltpetre. He ransacked libraries for treatises on chemistry, corresponded with the few persons in our country who were then acquainted with the subject, compared the different theories of the day, constructed his own formula, and a manuscript still existing records the minute details of the thirteen successive experiments which he made. The last trial was successful, and Pearson declared in his old age that he never felt such a moment of enthusiastic joy as when, after twenty-four hours of unintermitted labor and watching, the crystals appeared at last. Those crystals meant that he could get gunpowder, if that could be procured the British

metals — if you have not seen the [      ] & they will be agreeable — as they are only on half Sheet Paper — I will send them p<sup>r</sup> first Opp<sup>s</sup>. You perhaps will be thoughtful of the little Girl that had the Misfortune to be kicked in the Stomach by a Horse — she is something better today — it was a violent Contusion — very *problematical* at present whether she will recover.

Thursday P M — The information that I sent you yesterday concerning the Congress was as I heard it, but it turns out to be a mistake; the Congress have *not voted for Independence*. But the Question was agitated when there were but 10 Colonies present — & there was 6 to 4. The 3 Colonies that were absent were Rhode-Island, Jersey & Georgia — from whence you will know which were the 6 Colonies for it. Your Sentiments if you please on the important Affair of Independence. I trust that you will, as I shall, improve every Opp<sup>s</sup> to write & I hope that our interrupted Correspondence will be carried on with redoubled Vigor. Have not as yet heard a Word from Watertown — shall not seal my Letter 'till tomorrow — when perhaps I may add something further.

Friday Morning

Well, Friend, You will ere this reaches you see yesterdays Paper, in

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could be beaten, if they could be beaten, America would be free. For several days the problem of American liberty was working out, not only on the floor of the Continental Congress, but in the pans and kettles of the indefatigable Pearson. There is still extant a letter from an aged lady pupil of Dr. Pearson, stating that she well remembered going to school as usual one morning almost ninety years before, seeing the desks covered with pans of the bleaching saltpetre, and hearing to her childish joy, from the preoccupied teacher, that there would be no school that day. The cellars and barnyards of the neighbors were dug up for the sake of the nitrous earth, by the shovels of the energetic Pearson and his patriotic chemists, the experiment was completely successful, nor did our army ever afterwards suffer from the lack of ammunition (Earlier Annals of Phillips Academy, 1882, pp. 22, 23).

The book referred to in the text is Andrew Reid's translation of Macquer's *Elements of the Theory and Practice of Chymistry*, London, 1758. A second edition was published in 1764. Macquer's Chymistry, published shortly before Lavoisier's discoveries revolutionized the chemical theory of combustion, is based on the Phlogiston theory. Of this supposed elemental substance, the author says :

It differs from elementary Fire in the following particulars. 1. When united to a body, it communicates to it neither heat nor light. 2. It produces no change in its state, whether of solidity or fluidity; so that a solid body does not become fluid by the accession of the Phlogiston, and vice versa; the solid bodies to which it is joined being only rendered thereby more apt to be fused by the force of the culinary fire. 3. We can convey it from the body with which it is joined, into another body, so that it shall enter into the composition thereof, and remain fixed in it.

which the First Article that strikes your Attention is the Vote of Congress<sup>1</sup> pass'd 15<sup>th</sup> inst. — Judge You — Independance or not ? This I suppose is the Vote that was pass'd 6 to 4 &c. You will deliver the enclos'd Letters.

That you may be succeeded in all your Undertakings & prove to be a faithful & successful Minister of the Gospel of the ever blessed Jesus — is the sincere Wish & ardent Desire of your

Sincere Friend

NATH<sup>l</sup>. WALK<sup>r</sup>. APPLETON

P S I think you will approve of that part of  
the Instructions to the Representatives of Boston }  
which respects the internal Police of the Colony.<sup>2</sup> }

[*Addressed*]

Mr. Eliphalet Pearson  
in  
Andover

## XII

[19 August, 1776.]

It would be unpardonable in me, my Friend, to neglect this favourable Opp<sup>o</sup> of writing a few Lines to you, altho' I have not the pleasure of receiv<sup>g</sup>: one *from* you p<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. French, which I will endeavour to excuse, considering the many important Affairs that no doubt take up most of your time. As you have begun to preach if you could come this Way so as to give me an Opp<sup>o</sup> of hearing *you* my dear Friend expound the Scriptures from the sacred Desk it would give me great Pleasure. You'll

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<sup>1</sup> The vote referred to was apparently the Resolve passed 10 May :

Resolved, that it be recommended to the respective assemblies and conventions of the United Colonies, where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs hath been hitherto established, to adopt such government as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general (Journals of Congress, 1823, i. 339).

This vote was published 15 May with a preamble which began :

Whereas . . . it appears absolutely irreconcilable to reason and good conscience, for the people of these colonies now to take the oaths and affirmations necessary for the support of any government under the crown of Great-Britain, and it is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed, *etc.* (*Ibid.* i. 345).

<sup>2</sup> See Boston Record Commissioners' Reports, xviii, 236-238.

readily believe me, when I assure you that my barren Genius produces nothing at present fit for your Contemplation. I am truly sensible of the importance of cultivating that necessary part of a good Education — the inditing of a Good Letter or in other words keeping up a friendly Correspondence by Letter; that it improves the mind & that it encreases the sacred Flame of Friendship which has been already enkindled in two congenial Breasts. Therefore should be extremely glad to do all in my power towards promoting such a friendly intercourse between us. As to the Welfare of Mr. Mascarene's Family concerning whom you'll doubtless be Anxious, Miss Priscy can better inform you than I can possibly write. You are, no doubt, conscious that the present Topic of Conversation is Politics, or rather an Enquiry into the News of the day — at this time we may reasonably expect to hear very soon, something of importance from the two Armies at New York & Ticonderoga. There was a Report in town on friday of a Battle at N York — but it was told with so many improbable Circumstances, that few People gave credit to it any further than that there had been a Battle, but even that seems now to be without foundation. When I was at Cambridge last Week, in order to *see Mr. Pres-d-nt L* — for a Degree,<sup>1</sup> I had not the pleasure of seeing any of our Class Mates except Farrington, Fales & Peabody. Had the pleasure of drinking Tea that PM with Mr. Farrington, *his Lady & child*, Peabody in Comp<sup>a</sup> Does it not surprize you? to think that a N<sup>o</sup>. of the same standing with our selves have got into the World as it were, before us. But I am content to wait with patience, not doubting but that in due time We shall be provided for, in the several Branches of our professions. You have heard, no doubt, that Cata-

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<sup>1</sup> The degree of Master of Arts was conferred in due course three years after graduation upon payment of a fee. This custom continued down to 1872, the Class of 1869 being the last class whose members enjoyed the right to claim an A.M. on these easy conditions. Down to 1774 the law (Law 5 of Chapter X.) had been in regard to degrees :

Each Candidate for his first or second Degree, shall pay to the President twenty Shillings; and to the Steward five Shillings & four pence for the Catalogues, & eighteen Shillings for the public Dinner & other Commencement Charges. (From an official manuscript copy of the Laws in the Harvard College Library made in 1766 [?].)

At a Meeting of the Corporation, 31 May, 1774, it was —

Voted that Law 5. of Chap X. be amended as follows. viz.

Each Candidate for his first or second degree, shall pay to the President twenty Shillings, & to the Steward eighteen Shillings for the public Dinner & other commencement charges. And every Candidate for his first degree shall also pay to the Steward five shillings & four pence for printing the Catalogues. (College Book No. 7, p. 272.)

logues<sup>1</sup> are to be printed this Year & in a pamphlet. Alas! our good old Friend *Cutler* appears first with an *Asterism* prefix'd to his Name — grant that it may be truly ominous of his being in those *starry* Regions, where there are no *Wars*, nor Rumors of Wars, but where all is *peace*, Harmony, & Happiness.

If you will be so kind as to propose some Topic to write upon, in your next and at the same time give me *your* Sentiments upon it — I will endeavour to return you *mine*. Happening this Minute to open an Ames's Almanack for 1755 — the following Lines appeared *new* to me & thinking they may be so to you I will copy them —

Who 'ere presum'd, till Franklin led the Way,  
To climb the amazing Hight of Heaven,  
And rob the Sky of it's tremendous Thunder;  
And leave the Clouds, with Winds & Tempests fraught,  
But Breath enough to shake the trembling Trees,  
And rock the Birds that perch upon their Boughs.

You will doubtless see in the papers Gen<sup>l</sup>. Carlton's general Orders<sup>2</sup> at Chamblee Aug<sup>t</sup> 7. — *very blustering* — they appear to *me* ridiculous, give me *your* opinion — considering the present State of Affairs. How different his Conduct from that of my Lord Howe! You must know about fortnight ago M<sup>r</sup>. Nath<sup>l</sup>. Tracey went with a Flag of Truce from N York on board the Eagle in order to exchange some prisoners for those that were taken on board the Yankee Hero<sup>3</sup> — which he soon settled with his Lordship — & they are to be exchanged as soon as may be at M<sup>bl</sup>h'd. Then M<sup>r</sup>. T — presented L<sup>d</sup>. H. with a Letter. Is this from his *Excellency*? I believe it is he gave it me. I am heartily glad of it, I have

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<sup>1</sup> The Triennial Catalogue of 1776 was the first to be printed in pamphlet form. Previous catalogues, extending back to 1643, had been issued as broadsides. See the Publications of this Society, v. 334, 335.

The precise date of Cutler's death is not known, and is not recorded in the Quinquennial Catalogue. The latest reference to him in these letters is under date of 22 November, 1774 (p. 308, above).

<sup>2</sup> See Force, American Archives, Fifth Series, i. 987, 988.

<sup>3</sup> On 16 June, 1776, the Rev. Manasseh Cutler "Preached to the people at Sandy Bay [Gloucester], who were disconsolate on account of the fourteen men lately taken from them in a man-of-war. They were in the Yankee hero" (Life, Journals and Correspondence, i. 55). See also Force, American Archives, Fifth Series, i. 380, 727. The Yankee Hero was owned by Jackson, Tracey, and Tracey of Newburyport, of which firm Nathaniel Tracey (H. C. 1769) was a member. For a notice of him, see Mrs. E. Vale Smith's History of Newburyport, pp. 106, 107, 348, 349.

an high Opinion of him — I admire his personal Character — his Conduct during the last Campaign at Cambridge, shews that he is an able General. I long for a personal Acquaintance with him, but he is too scrupulous he ought to have rec<sup>d</sup>. my Letter. Had I acknowledged his Title I should have given up all I am contending for. I do not pretend to say that America is *not* right. Have never enter'd into politics — but when there was talk of Commissioners for Peace — I entered into the Affair with a sincere desire of serving my King & Country and also the Americans for whom I have an high esteem & ever shall when I consider their kind Notice of my Brother.<sup>1</sup> I came out with *ample* powers or else I would *not* have come — am very sorry that I did not arrive before Independ[en]cy was declared — but still more that I did not arrive before Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe left Boston. If I had I dare say I could so have settled matters with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington as to have gone myself *by Land* to philadelphia. I would have gone immediately to the Congress — and treated with them as the persons in whom the Americans trusted their publick Affairs — & then *I dare say I could have accomodated* the unhappy Contest between G Britain & the Colonies. But I am now afraid it is too late. As to the affair of Independency — it is more consistent with your principles & Conduct — than you were before. But as to foreign Alliances *I do not think* you'll be able to obtain any for I am very well assured that the Court of G B have secured all the Courts in Europe on their side. I do not think that laying waste your Sea port Towns & destroying Lives & property will have the least Tendency to settle Animosities. If it must be decided by the Sword it must. But I am jealous *on which side* the Scale will turn. I wish it may soon be settled in an amicable Way &c &c &c &c. in this Way they convers'd for near two Hours. But before Mr. Tracey's Departure L<sup>d</sup>. Howe open'd the Letter & said it was not from his Excell<sup>cy</sup> but from his good Friend Doct<sup>r</sup>. Franklin — he was extremely glad to receive it. Dr. F., says he, is my particular Friend — I esteem him as one of the *greatest* Men in the World — am much obliged to him for this Letter — &c &c — I think says L<sup>d</sup> H. that your Congress are right in their Resolutions upon G<sup>l</sup> Arnold's Cartel <sup>2</sup> — *provided* Facts are as they are there stated, but I dare say they will find them to be otherwise. But the Canada Affairs are not in my Department — — Now my dear Friend — if all were of my L<sup>d</sup> Howes Mind

<sup>1</sup> The elder brother of Lord Howe and of Sir William Howe was George Augustus, Viscount Howe, who was killed near Ticonderoga 6 July, 1758. See the Publications of this Society, vii. 250 note.

<sup>2</sup> See Journals of Congress (1823), i. 375, 403-406; Force, American Archives, Fifth Series, i. 158-162.



— how soon this unnatural Contest would be settled. But alas it is for the interest of too many to keep up the Ball — & while they swim they care not who sinks.<sup>1</sup>

If the above Scrawl is intelligible & will afford you any Satisfaction it will greatly rejoice

Your sincere Friend  
N W APPLETON.

Monday PM.

Salem Aug<sup>t</sup> 19. 1776.

The R-v-r-nd ELIPHALET PEARSON  
Andover

NB It is worthy of Observation that a few days after the above Conference L<sup>d</sup>. Howe sent a Letter directed to his Excellency General Washington with the Titles.

[Addressed]

	M <sup>r</sup> Eliphalet Pearson	
p <sup>r</sup> fav.	}	Andover
of Miss Holyoke		

### XIII

SALEM Sept. 8. 1776.

Sabbath Eve past 10 o'Clock.

DEAR FRIEND

I rec'd your agreeable Epistle of 6<sup>t</sup> inst. yesterday p M<sup>r</sup> Holyoke. Am very sorry to hear that your Mind, labours under any *particular* Disturbance at this time of *general* Calamity, when every rational person must be *anxious* for the Fate of his Country. If there is any thing in my power that can conduce to ease you of your Anxiety, you may be assured of my utmost Endeavours to do it, if you think proper to acquaint me with it.

At the time when I quoted those Lines on the great Franklin, I had no particular Reference to Electricity — it was merely accidental my happening to open an old Almanack at that place. Please to propose your Subject in your next — and as I said in my last I will endeavour to give you my — you will not let me say — *poor* Abilities — because as you are pleas'd to write “such Apologies are ill suited to that *confiden-*

<sup>1</sup> See Franklin's Works (Bigelow's edition), vi. 21-33; Force, American Archives, Fifth Series, i. 482, 483, 727, 785, 980, 981, ii. 234, 274, 324.

*tial* candid Friendship" &c &c. Am sorry you have not seen G<sup>l</sup>. Carltons *famous* Orders. If the Narrative respecting L<sup>d</sup>. H & M<sup>r</sup> T afforded you any Entertainment I am really glad. *You wish* I could give you a particular Acc<sup>o</sup>. of what has since past between G<sup>l</sup>. W — & L<sup>d</sup>. H on Long Island. *I wish* it was in my power, but it is not. The present General Acc<sup>o</sup>. is confus'd. Time will perhaps afford us a full & *particular* one — last Night's post brings no News papers as there were none printed in N York. The best Acc<sup>o</sup>. I can collect is — That after several skirmishings on Wednesday & Thursday — on Thursday Eve G<sup>l</sup>. W. held a Council of War when it was agreed to abandon the Island *immediately*, without risqueing the whole Army, viz 10,000 men, being cut off from a Retreat the next Day — accordingly Orders were giving at 9 ° Clock & the Boats which lay ready on N York side to carry Reinforcements to the Island were ordered to carry them off. The whole was compleated by 3 ° Clock Friday Morn — & we only left two or three 32 pounders — that the G<sup>l</sup>. himself was one of the last that came off. G<sup>l</sup>. Sullivan fell into a Ditch & was taken prisoner — he is now gone to Philadelphia on his Parole for 10 Days he was allowed to tell the Enemy's Loss — viz: 1500 killed on the Field of Battle, 3 Field Officers & G<sup>l</sup>. Grant are among the slain — 35 taken prisoners. Some say that G<sup>l</sup>. Sullivan says our Loss is greater than theirs — others say *but* between 7 & 800 kill'd — it will be a great while before we know the *Truth* of our Loss. L<sup>d</sup>. Howe has now got possession of the finest Island on the Continent which will afford them fine Winter Quarters. Fuel in plenty — 40000 inhabitants on it — & 80000 Head of Horn'd Cattle — the Island it is said raises as much Grain as the whole Colony of Connecticut. This is a very important Crisis. May "the Cause of *Truth, Virtue & Liberty* finally triumph." Let us wait with Patience the important Decisions of an all wise providence & be prepared for whatever may be our Lot — whither *Peace* or War — *Liberty* or Slavery. We have had the pleasure of *your Neice's* agreeable Comp<sup>o</sup> these 10 Days, she has in general carried herself well. But she has not broke herself of her Trick of *Winking* any more than her *Uncle* that of *snapping*. Hope when she returns home I shall be able to give you a *better* Acc<sup>o</sup>. I dined with our Friend Parsons last Friday — he was on his Way from Watertown through Salem to Newbury. Madam Holyoke can inform you of M<sup>r</sup>. Mascarene's Family's Health &c.

Thank you for your kind Wishes for your sincere Friend

NATH<sup>L</sup>. W. APPLETON

"and all whom he holds dear."

My kindest Regards to Miss priscy.

PS. T Parsons informed me that last or this Week — the Corporation rechose M<sup>r</sup>. Wadsworth<sup>1</sup> Tutor — as his Time of three Years was expired. There were two viz<sup>t</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup>. W — & D<sup>r</sup> C — against him — Dr A & D<sup>r</sup> E for him & the Rev<sup>d</sup>. president gave it (to his great Honor) in M<sup>r</sup>. W<sup>s</sup>. Favour. So you may perceive the redoubtable M<sup>r</sup> H — & his Croney Jimmy W — are not absolute in the Gov<sup>t</sup> of the College.

[Addressed]

M<sup>r</sup>. Eliphalet Pearson

Fav'd by }  
Mad<sup>m</sup>. Holyoke }

in

Andover

#### XIV

SALEM Wednesday Sept<sup>r</sup>. 17. 1777.

MY DEAR FRIEND

It seems almost an Age since I had the Pleasure to see or hear from you. Our Friend Parsons whom I saw at Newbury last Week inform'd me that you had been ill but that you had got much better. I hope your Health will be restor'd & continu'd you. It is reported that you are to have the new School which is to be erected at Andover — & that you are *soon* to make Miss P-r-y H-e *happy*. No wonder then, you could write Theodore that you was very glad to hear that I was *alive* after what had happen'd. As to those Matters they will be more fully explain'd when We see each other, but when that will be is very uncertain — you do not travel this road now a'days oftener than if there was half a dozen 50 Gun Ships to intercept your Passage. But if you will venture to come yourself or send a Line I will insure you at 72 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> — tho' common Insurance is now 75 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup>. This by M<sup>rs</sup>. Holyoke who I suppose will return by the last of the Week — do write how you do — & conc<sup>s</sup> the School &c. I have lately purchas'd me a manuscript Bible wrote on Parchment in old English Hand & vulgate Latin — with a N<sup>o</sup> of Abbreviations & Characters — suppose to be wrote about the Year 1400. I esteem it as a great Curiosity — it is to be sent to Portsmouth this Week

<sup>1</sup> John Wadsworth (H. C. 1762) was Tutor from 1770 till his death in 1777. In 1774 he was chosen a Fellow of the Corporation, of which body he was therefore a member at this time when he was re-elected Tutor. The other members of the Corporation were Samuel Langdon, President, John Hancock, Treasurer, and Nathaniel Appleton, John Winthrop, Andrew Eliot, and Samuel Cooper. John Hancock's "Croney Jimmy W——" was doubtless James Winthrop (H. C. 1769), who was Librarian from 1772 to 1787.

but when it returns should be very glad to have you see it. My time is now near expir'd with the Doct'. and I expect to leave him in less than three Weeks—to go where? you will say. O! my dear Friend to launch into the wide World of Troubles & Sorrow. I cannot bear the Thought—it causes such Sensations to arise in my mind as make me dread the day when I must set out for myself—some of your advice at this time will be very acceptable to

Your sincere Friend

N W APPLETON.

My Respects wait on

Madam Holyoke.

Love to Miss Priscy & Betty Epes.

Tell Miss Epes that her Papa, Mamma, Brothers & Sisters were *all well* last Sabbath Even<sup>g</sup>. Can you procure any such thing as Honey or Wax—if so do let me know.

Monday Sept<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>. As the Weather has prevented M<sup>rs</sup>. H. going as propos'd she intends sitting out this AM, altho' the Weather is not very agreeable. As for Politics we are in great Suspence expecting to hear hourly some important News from both Armies. O that this Campaign might be the decisive one, & we soon enjoy Peace, Liberty & Happiness.

Y<sup>r</sup>.

NWA

[*Addressed*]

M<sup>r</sup>. Eliphalet Pearson

Andover

Fav'd by }  
; M<sup>rs</sup>. Holyoke }

## XV

June 12, 1778

MY DEAR FRIEND

I hope this may hail you, the *Acting* Preceptor of Phillips School. We have been favoured by M<sup>r</sup>. Phillips with the Particulars of that unfortunate Affair which so lately happen'd in your Parish;<sup>1</sup> it is not only a great Misfortune to our worthy Patriot, & to those Families who are depriv'd of their Heads; but is a very great Publick Loss. I do not understand that any of your Family rec<sup>d</sup>. any Damage from the violence of the Shock which no doubt considerably affected you. Our Friend M<sup>r</sup>. Clarke has gone this Week to Salem; to bury his Grandfather, the famous

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<sup>1</sup> An explosion at Judge Phillips's powdermill in June, 1778, blew up the building and killed three men.

Deacon Pickering.<sup>1</sup> He is to be ordained 8<sup>th</sup> July at which time I depend upon having the Pleasure of seeing you here. My best Regards to Madam Holyoke, to Miss Priscy &c. M<sup>rs</sup>. Mascarene has been troubled with a Cough this Week past. Their whole time is employed in preparing for, & attending on M<sup>r</sup>. Shirley & Lady, Miss Rock; Miss Yeaden Waiting Maid, Mon<sup>r</sup>. Louis le Valet de Chambre, M<sup>r</sup>. James the Footman & Jem the Lacquey.

M<sup>r</sup>. M. as usual. Cousin Betsy very well; I do not know whither they will write by this Opp<sup>o</sup>. When I was at Andover you mentioned your great Want of a tooth-Brush; I take this Opp<sup>o</sup>. to present you with two Brushes for that Purpose, likewise a small Box about half full of Dentifrice, trusting that they will be acceptable

I remain

Your sincere Friend

N. W. APPLETON.

NB. PS. the Presidents Lady<sup>2</sup>  
broke out with the Small Pox  
last Wednesday at Cambridge.

M<sup>r</sup>. Preceptor.

Perhaps Smoak is necessary as I now attend two Patients with the S. Pox.

[Addressed]

M<sup>r</sup>. Eliphalet Pearson  
Preceptor of Phillips School:  
Andover.

Fav'd by }  
M<sup>r</sup>. S. Phillips }

## XVI

Boston March 23 1782

MY DEAR FRIEND

After acknowledging the favor of yours of yesterday let me heartily congratulate you upon being made a happy *Parent*; am very sorry that our good Cousin your amiable Lady is so unwell & is not able to make a Nurse for her Baby. Immediately after perusing your Letter I sent my Servant Girl being somewhat unwell myself & not daring to be out in the Eve<sup>g</sup> Air with M<sup>r</sup>. Bush to Willis & from thence to M<sup>rs</sup>. Masca-

<sup>1</sup> This was Timothy Pickering, father of the statesman of the same name.

<sup>2</sup> President Langdon married Elizabeth Brown, daughter of the Rev. Richard Brown (H. C. 1697) of Reading, Massachusetts (New England Historical and Genealogical Register, xxx. 33, 34).

rene's the result you will learn of him. Not recollecting but *one* Nurse that wanted a Place tho' many want to take a Child I applied this Morn<sup>g</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup>. Greenough with whom she lives. She is about 23 Years of Age — very good temper, is not known now to have or ever to have had *any Disorder* that can cause Uneasiness, her Milk is good, but it is 12 months old. She is very clean & careful about the Child, *but* is a *Slut* respecting herself — is under some Engagements to go to Roxbury. I did not see her but purpose it before M<sup>r</sup>. Bush leaves the Town. M<sup>rs</sup>. Mascarene will inform you the Result of her Enquiries. M<sup>rs</sup>. Appleton joins me in Love to you & M<sup>rs</sup>. Pearson — pray kiss the little Bantling for me. You cannot doubt how much Pleasure your Happiness affords me & how strongly I feel myself interested in all your Concerns. That M<sup>rs</sup>. P<sup>1</sup> may speedily recover her Health; that little *Polly* may have an excellent Nurse & that all of You may enjoy every Felicity in each other that the Connection ever affords is the sincere

Wish of your affectionate Friend

N. W. APPLETON.

NB. M<sup>r</sup> Cutting has not returned my Ainsworth. We are all very well. The Mass<sup>a</sup>. Med : Soc<sup>y</sup> are to meet 17 April. My Br<sup>o</sup>. Jn<sup>o</sup>. sailed for S<sup>t</sup>. Thomas's last Monday.

## XVII

Boston Feby. 12<sup>o</sup>. 1784.

MY DEAR FRIEND

On Monday last the supreme Ruler of the Universe was pleased to take from us by Death, my aged pious & reverend Grandfather, in the 91<sup>st</sup> Year of his Age & 67 of his Ministry. Our Loss is his Gain — why then ought we to mourn? The best Respect we can pay is to imitate his pious, catholic & charitable Conduct thro a long & useful Life.

By this Opp<sup>o</sup>. I send you one of M<sup>r</sup>. Clarke's<sup>2</sup> Sermons upon the Death of D<sup>r</sup> Cooper, also the Magazine<sup>3</sup> for January. The Editors at

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Pearson died six days later, 29 March, 1782.

<sup>2</sup> John Clarke, at this time Junior Pastor of the First Church in Boston, being the Rev. Dr. Chauncy's colleague. He was of the Class of 1774, and has already been alluded to as a grandson of Deacon Pickering (pp. 321, 322) and as the minister who later delivered the funeral discourse on Walker himself (p. 290).

<sup>3</sup> The "Boston Magazine, Printed and Published by Norman & White, at their Office in Marshall's Lane, near the Boston Stone." The first number was that for November, 1783. The January, 1784, number contains letters from

present are obliged in some measure *to conform* to the taste of the Subscribers. If we could have a few more good *original* pieces — there would be new Subscribers & we need not mind, the little ones. Cannot you favour us with some productions from Andover? some Observations in reply to *Susannah & Fenelon* upon Enigmas.

At present I am confined with a bad Cold.

Your Friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

N. W. APPLETON.<sup>1</sup>

[Addressed]

M<sup>r</sup> E. Pearson

"Fenelon" and "Susanna" approving the inclusion of enigmas and in opposition to an earlier letter by "Observator," who had objected to them. "Fenelon" declares that "the enigmatical lists are mostly written by the Ladies, and they are not only a necessary relaxation from the fatigue of attending to domestic concerns, but an amusement for leisure hours" (i. 47, 98, 99).

<sup>1</sup> The character of Osgood and Farrington's shop (pp. 295, 298), its situation, and the situation of their "distill-house," are uncertain. A deed in the Middlesex Registry (lxxvii. 32) shows that a piece of land passed on 9 August, 1774, from Elizabeth Cl<sup>r</sup>k to Peter Osgood and Thomas Farrington. The boundaries are not given in such fashion as to determine precisely the situation of the lot; but in 1751 Elizabeth Cl<sup>r</sup>k inherited from her father, James Clerk, an "old homestead and an acre of land" which is described as "Bounded on townsway, north, Daniel Barrett, Andrew Boardman, and Francis Foxcroft, west; Francis Foxcroft, south; and rangeway east" (Middlesex Probate Files, no. 3042). This must have been on the southwest corner of what are now Holyoke and South Streets, and it was doubtless part of this land that passed to Osgood and Farrington in 1774.

Thomas Farrington served with honor in the Revolution, and was Selectman of Cambridge in 1778-79, Assessor in 1779, Town Clerk in 1780-82, and Representative in 1780 (Paige's History of Cambridge, pp. 429, 461, 465, 467, 468). Later he moved to Boston, and at his death, 19 January, 1807, was living in Green Street (Columbian Centinel, 21 January, 1807). From a notice of Dr. Redford Webster, a Boston druggist, in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society (i. 490), it appears that Dr. Webster sold out his business to Thomas Farrington soon after April, 1804, and this suggests that Farrington's business in Cambridge had likewise been that of a druggist.

For the reference to James Cl<sup>r</sup>k's will and to Osgood and Farrington's deed, and for the identification of the lots of land concerned, I am indebted to the kindness of Mrs. S. M. Gozzaldi, of Cambridge.

*The description of a lot of land sold to the College 23 Oct. 1778 shows that Farrington's shop probably stood on the site of part of College House, opp. Matthews Hall. See Mrs. Gozzaldi's letter on file, May 7, 1906.*

*As mentioned above may well be on the site of the distill-house.*







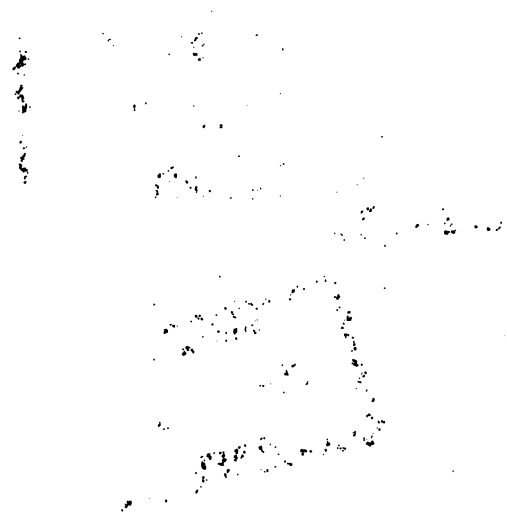














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